

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 01047 111605Z
ACTION LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5765
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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FOR GOLDEN, ILAB, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

FOR FRANK BUGBEE, BUCHAREST

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, TS
SUBJECT: DOL SEMINARS IN TUNISIA

REF: STATE 26969, TUNIS 0723

1. OUR EFFORTS TO INTEREST MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS
IN SEMINARS ORGANIZED BY DOL AS PROPOSED IN STATE 26969
HAVE NOT MET WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM. CONSEQUENTLY, WE
DO NOT BELIEVE THAT VISIT TO TUNIS BY BUGBEE AT THIS
TIME WOULD BE OPPORTUNE.

2. MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES
OF OUR SPONSORING AN ONGOING TRAINING PROGRAM WITH THE
INSTITUTE OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICE THAT WOULD INCLUDE
STUDY GRANTS IN THE U.S. FOR TUNISIANS, RESIDENT AMERICAN
EXPERTS AT THE SCHOOL TO CONDUCT COURSES, AND OCCASIONAL
WORKSHOPS IN TUNIS IN WHICH AMERICAN EXPERTS SHARE KNOWLEDGE
AND EXPERIENCE WITH TUNISIANS ACTIVE IN LABOR FIELD.
MINISTRY HAS EXPRESSED PREFERENCE THAT THIS PROGRAM BE
ESTABLISHED DIRECTLY WITH DR. MYERS OF UCLA SCHOOL OF LABOR
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AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. MINISTER
MOHAMED ENNACEUR WAS IMPRESSED BY MYERS' SCHOOL DURING
OCTOBER 1975 LEADER GRANT VISIT TO U.S., AND HE HAS FREQUENTLY
EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MINISTRY/UCLA PROGRAM IN LABOR
TRAINING. EMBASSY OFFICER ADVISED MINISTRY OFFICIALS
THAT WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO HAVE ADEQUATE BUDGET RESOURCES
TO ESTABLISH LEVEL OF PROGRAM THEY ENVISION BUT OHAT WE

CAN CONSIDER SEMINAR ASPECT.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT A LABOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CAN BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL TO TUNISIANS AND REQUEST THAT DOL CONSIDER WHAT SPECIFIC PROGRAMS MIGHT BE OFFERED OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ENNACEUR'S HIGH REGARD FOR UCLA PROGRAM AND REGULAR REFERRAL TO IT BY MINISTRY OFFICIALS, WE SUGGEST THAT DOL ALSO CONSIDER POSSIBILITIES OF PROGRAMMING TUNISIAN ACTIVITIES THROUGH UCLA. WE SHOULD, IN ANY EVENT, NOT APPROACH TUNISIANS AGAIN ON SUBJECT OF SEMINARS IN LABOR FIELD UNTIL WE CAN TELL THEM WHETHER OR NOT UCLA PARTICIPATION IS POSSIBLE.H

4. IN ADDITION TO PROGRAM OBJECTIVE OF DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS OF TUNISIAN LABOR MINISTRY CADRES, WE HAVE ALSO SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH A SEMINAR PROGRAM IN ORDER TO EXPOSE TUNISIAN TRADE UNIONISTS TO U.S. EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICE IN LABOR AFFAIRS. TO THIS END, WE HAVE SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF AMERICAN TRADE UNIONISTS ON SEMINAR TEAMS AND WE REQUEST THAT IN DESIGNING ANY PROGRAMS FOR SEMINARS IN TUNISIA THAT THE DOL KEEP THIS OBJECTIVE IN MIND.

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